

At the regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Elmira, Chemung County, New York held Monday, June 15, 2020 at 7:00 PM using zoom due to Covid-19 and the social distancing orders set in place by the Governor, there were present:

Supervisor: Neil Milliken
Councilmember: Albert Lucarelli
Councilmember: Ron Allison
Councilmember: Thomas Milliken
Councilmember: Scott Bush- Absent

Others present
Town Clerk- Tammy Stein
Attorney- Scott Moore

Resolution #92-20

Minutes

By Mr. Allison

Seconded by Mr. Lucarelli

Motion was made to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 18, 2020.

Aye- T. Milliken, Allison, Lucarelli, N. Milliken

No- None

Resolution #93-20

Financial Report

By Mr. T. Milliken

Seconded by Mr. Lucarelli

Supervisor Milliken reviewed the Town's Financial position as of May 31, 2020 and stated we are in good financial position. The May 2020 bank statements and year to date Fund Balance reports were provided to the board. Motion was made to accept the Supervisor's report for May 2020.

Aye- T. Milliken, Allison, Lucarelli, N. Milliken

No- None

Report by Supervisor Milliken

The financials of the Town have been reviewed. Our concern continues to be the anticipated operating revenue losses due to the pandemic. The latest county sales tax receipts are down a whopping 34% relative to the same period in 2019. The Board has requested all departments make only necessary purchases to maintain current services, reduce spending where possible and forego acquisition of new equipment. More measures are anticipated after Board discussion.

As previously announced, all municipal pools in the County, including our own, will not be opening for this season. To adhere to disinfection and distancing requirements and to reduce the numbers of patrons was not feasible, and safety of swimmers could not be assured. Our summer programs have been similarly affected, so though disappointed we look forward to next year.

A number of residents have continued to request expanded hours for the Town compost facility. They are aware that the County facility is open and available to them on Saturday’s, they would prefer the shorter drive to ours. Our current financial challenges make the hiring of a monitor for Saturday hours seem a bit irresponsible, so we have in recent weeks discussed some options to provide additional hours at no cost to taxpayers. I have been communicating with the resident organizing this compost initiative and have extended him an invitation to meet to discuss further.

I would like to extend my thanks to Patty Santulli and her group for taking on the task to tend the area owned by the Town at the point. With the nice sign welcoming drivers to the Town, its equally nice to have the area around the sign looking neat and tidy.

Town Court will be reopening the end of this month with restrictions. We will be providing whatever supplies and facility changes they require to do so.

Earlier this evening I received an email indicating the Governor is expanding acceptable groups from 10 to 25 in Phase 3, so it appears this might be our last virtual Board meeting.

Lastly, we have on our agenda the retirement letter for Scott Eschbach. Though we all knew this was coming, we still accept with both reluctance and a great deal of gratitude. I have had the pleasure of working with Scott just these last 6 months, but can attest to the comfort of having an employee with whom you have complete confidence. First, there is little he cannot do. His skill set includes carpentry, electrical, earth moving and lord knows what else. I have yet to find what he cannot do. Second, he identifies what needs to be done, and gets it done. There is no looking over his shoulder, no questioning if a task is not completed. I would liken him to the Energizer bunny which you just wind up and let go, except Scott winds himself up, then goes. Hard working, reliable, consistent, even-tempered – perhaps the near-perfect employee and co-worker. It is trite to say he will be hard to replace and that he will be missed, but I say that with all honesty and I am certain, that all of you will agree.

Resolution #94-20

Audit of Bills

By Mr. T. Milliken

Seconded by Mr. Lucarelli

Resolved that all claims in the total amount of \$115,409.89 were audited and approved for payment when in funds.

Aye- T. Milliken, Allison, Lucarelli, N. Milliken

No- None

Communications

Chemung County Board of Election RE: Primary Election

Department Reports:

Due to the Covid – 19 and social distancing Supervisor Milliken stated the Department heads were excused from attending the meeting but were asked to submit a report:

Code Enforcement Officer, Eric Crandall turned in his report showing all the permits that were issued in May. He stated May was a strong month for permits as 25 building permits were issued and \$1408 in fees were brought in. Through May 30th of this year, he has collected \$3,832 in

fees, which is down from \$5,374 through the same time last year. Considering we weren't allowed to issue permits for roughly six weeks, this number is rather encouraging. Seven tall grass notices were sent in May and achieved compliance on all but one property. That property is 1519 W. Water St. and it will join 1214 W. Church St and 183 Bower Rd as parcels that the Town is maintaining due to absentee owners.

Highway Superintendent, Matt Mustico informed the board that last month Suit Kote came in and FDR Draht Hill Rd from Gunderman Rd to Windswept. They will stone and oil Gunderman soon. A new sluice pipe was put under Larchmont Rd, a drywell was rebuilt on Wesley St and DEC did a video inspection of DS3 a 5-year inspection. Jim mowed all the detention ponds and they started mowing alongside the roads. They started patching on East Hill as well as working on West First Street. Chad helped the County a few days. Matt is getting quotes for camera's as the one at the shop stopped working and is not repairable. He was informed that the CHIPS money is now available with a chance they could keep up to 20%, so he cut back on the road program for now.

Police Chief, Tom Barr reported on calls, stops, assists and accidents that his department did for May.

Buildings and Grounds Caretaker, Scott Eschbach stated in the past few weeks, supplies of chemicals have been ordered for the pool and all equipment has been calibrated to operate the water balance at a minimum in order to keep the water from fouling and protect the pools' integrity. The Park and all outlying grounds have been mowed. The Softball infields have been worked with our grooming machine several times in an attempt to control growth of grass and weeds. Our new future small soccer field has taken great shape with the ground working time he has been able to give it. There has been a push of volunteer help to dig a shallow trench around the garden area and he will find time to install a small animal fencing around its perimeter. This has been a project in prep for the past season so materials have been in house waiting for both time and help to complete. He is working on completing the renovation work at the TCC and should be very close with all the planned improvements.

Discussion

Supervisor Milliken informed the board that Aaric Ross, part time Traffic District #1 Officer was hired on full time by the City of Corning, so we will be losing him in the near future.

Councilmen Allison stated he heard that the Denison pool in Corning is opening and asked about ours. Supervisor Milliken informed the board that he has been working closely with Executive Moss and as a consensus with the Chemung County pools, they decided to keep them closed for the season. Mr. Milliken stated that the guidelines are very restrictive to meet and they must be followed in order to open. They would have a small amount that could enter, everything would have to be cleaned often and it is difficult to meet all the protocols that are listed in order to open.

Resolution #95-20

Appoint of Alec Kerbein as Part time Traffic District #1 Officer

By Mr. Lucarelli

Seconded by Mr. T. Milliken

Motion was made to appoint Alec Kerbein as part time Traffic District #1 Officer effective June 8, 2020.

Aye- T. Milliken, Allison, Lucarelli, N. Milliken No- None

Resolution #96-20

Appoint of Jacob Marrone as Full time Traffic District #1 Officer

By Mr. Allison

Seconded by Mr. T. Lucarelli

Motion was made to appoint part time Traffic District #1 Officer Jacob Marrone to Full Time status effective June 1, 2020.

Aye- T. Milliken, Allison, Lucarelli, N. Milliken No- None

Resolution #97-20

Reappoint Mark Miles as Planning Board member

By Mr. Allison

Seconded by Mr. T. Milliken

Motion was made to re-appoint Mark Miles to the Town Planning Board for a term of April 30, 2020 and expire April 30, 2027.

Aye- T. Milliken, Allison, Lucarelli, N. Milliken No- None

Resolution #98-20

Accept credit card payments

By: Mr. Lucarelli

Seconded by Mr. Allison

Motion was made to accept credit card payments in the Clerk’s Office for Licensing and Tax Collecting and the Code department for permits and other fees.

Aye- T. Milliken, Allison, Lucarelli, N. Milliken No- None

Resolution #99-20

Accept Resignation of Scott Eschbach, Buildings and Grounds

By: Mr. T. Milliken (with regret)

Seconded by: Mr. Allison

Motion was made to accept with regret and sincere appreciation the resignation of Scott Eschbach, Buildings and Grounds caretaker effective July 31,2020

Aye- T. Milliken, Allison, Lucarelli, N. Milliken No- None

Resolution #100-20

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CHEMUNG COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT (Northern Extension of the Lackawanna Rail Trail)

By: Mr. Allison

Seconded by: Mr. T. Milliken

WHEREAS, the Chemung County Planning Commissioner, on behalf of the Elmira-Chemung Transportation Council, has requested authorization to enter into an Inter-Municipal agreement with various local municipalities for the purpose of developing a multi-use trail for the purpose of recreation, education, economic development and alternative transportation, to be known as the Northern Extension of the Lackawanna Rail Trail (the “trail extension”) to connect Eldridge Park (City of Elmira) to Memorial Park (Village of Elmira Heights); and

WHEREAS, the property is part of the former Lehigh Valley Railroad and the old Chemung Canal and is owned by the County of Chemung (tax parcel 79.14-1-22); and

WHEREAS, the County of Chemung, City of Elmira, Town of Elmira, Town of Horseheads, and the Village of Elmira Heights desire to enter into an inter-municipal agreement for cost-sharing the expense incurred to develop this multi-use trail and to be equal partners in maintaining the trail extension; and

WHEREAS, the development of the trail extension will begin immediately, utilizing up to \$50,000 in Certificate of Deposit funds contributed to the Chemung County Soil and Water Conservation District by the above-referenced municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the County of Chemung Department of Public Works shall allocate in-kind labor, permitting and engineering resources, and bridge panels on hand to the project; and

WHEREAS, the agreement will provide that from beginning in 2023 through 2027, and thereafter renewable every four years upon the recommendation of the County Executive and Resolution of the Legislature, the above referenced municipalities will each allocate \$2,500 annually for maintenance and administration of the trail extension; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive and the Highway Committee have recommended that the Chemung County Legislature approve the Commissioner’s Request; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, that the Chemung County Executive is hereby authorized and directed to execute an Inter-Municipal agreement, subject to the review and approval of the County Attorney, between the County of Chemung and the City of Elmira, Town of Elmira, Town of Horseheads, and the Village of Elmira Heights for the development, and maintenance and administration of the Northern Extension of the Lackawanna Rail Trail with the terms thereof consistent with the preamble to this Resolution; and,

be it further RESOLVED, that the Inter-Municipal agreement shall not be renewed, the initial terms thereof extended, or the agreement amended without express consent by Resolution of this Legislature.

Aye- T. Milliken, Allison, Lucarelli, N. Milliken

No- None

Resolution #101-20

Set date for July Workshop

By Mr. T. Milliken

Seconded by Mr. Lucarelli

Motion was made to set the date of July 13, 2020 at 7pm for a Workshop meeting.

Aye- T. Milliken, Allison, Lucarelli, N. Milliken

No- None

Motion was made by Mr. T. Milliken and seconded by Mr. Allison to enter into an executive session to discuss a personnel matter at 7:30 pm

Motion was made by Mr. Allison and seconded by Mr. Lucarelli to exit executive session at 8:44 pm and on a motion by Mr. T. Milliken and seconded by Mr. Allison the meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm

Tammy Stein, Town Clerk